St John's College, Cambridge
17 Nov. 1849

Sir,

I venture to address you upon a botanical subject of some interest which I trust will be considered as a sufficient excuse for intruding upon you.

You will probably have seen in the "Annals of Natural History" for 1848 (Ser. 2. Vol. 1, p. 81. Tab. 8) a paper upon Anacharis Alsinastrum in which there is some discussion upon the subject of Nuttalls' Udora canadensis, both as to its identity with Richards Edodea canadensis and its claims to be considered as a distinct genus from Anacharis.

Since that paper was published I have received your "Botany of the Northern U. States" in which you to a considerable extent adopt Nuttalls' description of the Male flowers of Udora. As I shall shortly have to describe our plant in the "Supplement to English Botany"

I desire to obtain from you an opinion as to the identity of our Arachoris Alsinastrum with any of the N. American plants; and the declaration from you that you have seen the detached male flowers and also anthers in the female or hermaphrodite flowers. No male flowers or anthers have been found in England upon Arachoris Alsinastrum. I also desire to know what is your opinion about the claims of Nuttalls and Richards' names

I inclose a bit of my Arachoris and venture to express a hope that you will do me the favour of returning me a bit of your plant.

Begging that you will excuse this intrusion

I have the honour to be
very obediently yours
Charles C. Babington.

Dr. A. Gray
Fisher Professor
Harvard University
U. S. America